

AIDS
Network of
Edmonton
Society

**The
AIDS
Network**

V.I.P. NEWS



Volume 9, Issue 3

May/June 1997

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HELPLINE



488-5816

V.I.P. News

*A bi-monthly newsletter for the
supporters of the
AIDS Network of Edmonton Society.*

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

Ross Armstrong Office

#201, 11456 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, AB, T5K 0M1

Tel: (403) 488-5742

Fax: (403) 488-3735

e-mail: anoes@connect.ab.ca

<http://www.connect.ab.ca/~anoes>

1997 Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 1997 - 7:30pm
Unitarian Church
12530 - 110 Avenue

1997 Community Leadership Award

This award acknowledges the contributions of one individual whose efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS has shown significant community leadership.

The 1997 award will be announced and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Don't Forget.....

In order to vote at the A.G.M. you must be a member of the AIDS Network in good standing. Your membership can be renewed either prior to or at the A.G.M.

Remember, all proceeds from memberships go to the Ross Armstrong Memorial Trust Fund, which provides emergency support to individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

The Guest Speaker at this year's A.G.M. will be Lois Hole.

**All Members and Supporters
welcome to attend!!!**

VOLUNTEER CORNER



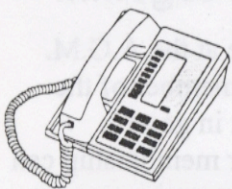
Care Team Program

We urgently need new Care Team/Buddy Volunteers
Volunteer training is a requirement, as is a police check.

If this is an area you may be interested in, please call June @ 488-5742.

If you are interested but have not taken the Volunteer training yet, call anyway as we are trying to get a summer training session together.

Special thanks to all the current Care Team/Buddy Volunteers who do such a wonderful job helping people living with HIV/AIDS to remain independent and in their own homes. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.



We are looking for some volunteers who are available during the day to answer our phone and to help out at the reception area.

Shifts are 9-1 and 1-5.

If you are interested, please call June @488-5742.

We really need you!!!!

Doing your gardening and starting to feel a bit overcrowded? We'd love to take your extra plants off your hands!



If you have any plants or flowers that you would be willing to donate to our clients, please call June @488-5742.

Thank You For VOLUNTEERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suede by the Music

The AIDS Network was very fortunate to have jazz/pop phenom, Suede, performing to raise awareness and funds for the organization. Partial proceeds from the May 9th concert were directed to the AIDS Network. Her music was enchanting and her humour had people rolling in the aisles of the Provincial Museum auditorium. Suede's crystalline voice mesmerized the audience and her songs made people laugh and cry. The crowd loved her performance and convinced her to come back to the stage for two encores.

A big thank you to Fennel Productions Ltd. for their hard work in organizing and promoting the concert! Of course, a big thank you to Suede for being a crusader in the fight against AIDS.



fennel productions presents
the Legendary
Cris Williamson
 with
Tret Fure

**KICK
OFF
FOR
JUNE '97
PRIDE**



WOMONSPACE

"Cris has been a lot of women's heroes. Including mine."

— Bonnie Raitt

Also featuring Cori Brewster

Provincial Museum Theatre

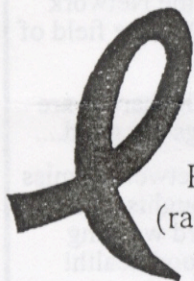
Saturday, June 7 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$20 at: Orlando Books - 432-7633

Alternative Video Spot - 439-2233, Jazzberrys Tool Cafe - 488-1553

AIDS Awareness Red Ribbon Pins Now Available at the Network

Including Pride/Awareness Pins



The AIDS Network is selling gold colour trimmed red ribbon pins to raise funds for the Network. In addition, **Pride/AIDS Awareness** pins are available. These unique Pride/AIDS Awareness pins show red on one half of the pin and the colours of pride (rainbow) on the other half. The cost of each pin is \$5.00. If you are interested in purchasing a pin, please stop by the Network!

New Faces at the Network

The AIDS Network would like to introduce our two new summer staff **Suzanne Hindmarch** and **Chantelle Leclair**.

Suzanne is this year's AIDS Walk Edmonton Co-coordinator, and Chantelle is the Development and Administration Assistant. The AIDS Network is pleased to have these two on board for the summer.

SUPPORT SERVICES

In Memorium

We Remember:



Peter E.

Les H.

Forever in our hearts

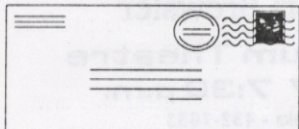
Greetings!

It seems like yesterday that I started in the position of support worker at the AIDS Network. But alas, it has been over a month now since I've walked through those doors. And what a month it has been!!

Both Deborah and I have kept ourselves busy establishing ourselves in our new positions. We have managed to connect with almost every inner-city agency there is. As well as providing support services to our established clients, we are reaching out to those who might not be as connected with the Network. So look for us out and about, in the gay community, in the inner-city, on the Streetworks van and at the needleworks site at the Boyle McCauley Health Center.

Our emphasis is to get out into the community and connect with people living with HIV and AIDS where they are at. The hope is that once people are familiar with our faces and the services we provide, they will feel that the Network is a safe and comfortable place to be. With that in mind I encourage you to come down and poke your head in and say hi! Support services is there to help and we don't make a bad cup of coffee either!! Hope to see you soon!

Garth Goertz
Support Services ANE



Greetings from the West Coast:

As I sit back and watch the ocean roll in and the mountains tower above me, I think back about that little Prairie town I once knew called Edmonton...

As most of you know, I have left the AIDS Network of Edmonton and am presently working for the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society. I cherish the time I spent with the Network and all of the valuable gifts of knowledge and friendships that I received. My time at the Network gave me the opportunity to develop a strong philosophy of work (well OK some strong opinions as well) in the field of HIV/AIDS that will guide me in my career.

... ah, the sun is slowly sinking into the sea while colors radiate and reflect off its surface. The ships in the harbor are turning on their lights, creating a miniature city on the sea. Two lovers, hand in hand, pass by, yes things are good....

What I will miss the most about Edmonton are the people I left behind. To all of my colleagues at the Network, I miss you all very much - Sandra, Corinne, Brett, Betty, Lil, Pam, June - you all hold a special place in my thoughts. To all the volunteers - thanks for making things a lot easier and brighter during my work - especially all the hard working members of the Care Team Program - (Hi Jerry - come visit!). To all the members of Living Positive, good health! And remember there is no longer a three month residency rule to move out here!

...there is a cool breeze in the woods as I scramble down the path to emerge to the vast openness of the beach. The bright hot sun, warm sand and the crashing of waves on the shore all means only one thing - paradise.

I have already met most of the people who have made this journey before me - actually it seems like they all meet at a local coffee shop on a certain night of the week. It was good to see people I already know. I have found an apartment - a bachelor suite for \$620 dollars - so for all of you complaining about high rent in Edmonton - stop it! I will be leaving for Amsterdam on Victoria Day for two weeks. I will be attending a conference and then a week of well earned holidays. I will be back in Edmonton for a brief visit and to get the rest of my belongings in the middle of June. Hope to see people then.

Sincerely,
Greg

EDUCATION UPDATE

Community HIV Information Exchange Through Resource and Peer Education

This initiative, funded by Health Canada, is in its second year, and will be focusing on completing the goal and objectives as proposed:

1. Develop a model reflecting the AIDS Network moving from a traditional support based or controlled information, education and support program to an alternate approach of community based peer participation in disseminating HIV information, education and support services.
2. Increase information exchange from the AIDS Network Resource Center by 100% through the active and direct participation of contracted PLWHIV to disseminate relevant and current resources to peers and others in the community
3. Hire by contract one or several PLWHIV to coordinate and facilitate information exchange through the AIDS Network Resource Center and training to peers for community based education and support services for others infected and affected by HIV.
4. Train at least 10 PLWHIV to become community information disseminators, peer educators and support workers through the "Train the Trainer" and "Think Positive" Programs.
5. Initiate necessary changes in the AIDS Network Resource Centre in a planned and organized fashion to broaden access to relevant and current resources as well as provide a variety of ways of accessing information including Internet services on HIV/AIDS topics, trained peers accessing and disseminating information, PLWHIV working in the resource center and interacting with peers and others, promoting activities and information sessions within the resource center, and exchanging information and resources with other libraries and agencies in Edmonton and area.
6. Create a supportive comfortable environment at the AIDS Network for PLWHIV through physical access to counselling, resources, lounge drop-in, education services, peers, and other areas to ensure confidentiality and anonymity for those infected and affected by HIV, as well as for other groups and agencies in the community.
7. Establish a set of guidelines or terms of reference for resource needs to maintain/sustain peer training and community based information exchange, education, and support services for individuals infected and affected by HIV.
8. Establish an interagency advisory council consisting of AIDS Network staff, PLWHIV, various AIDS related agencies, Edmonton libraries, and interested others to oversee the project activities and the maintenance of the project activities following the completion of the project.
9. Evaluate and provide recommendations based on the outcomes and experience of this project in bringing out and helping greater numbers of PLWHIV who have disclosed or not disclosed within the community in order for them to make informed health and living decisions.

David Rae and Deborah Norris have been hired as part time coordinators to work with Heather Syren and a steering committee to work on the goals and objectives. They have developed a workplan of activities to be completed over the next year.

If you are HIV+ and are interested in participating in this project, we would like to hear from you. Please contact David, Deborah, or Kathy at the AIDS Network ph 488-5742, fax 488-3735 or email ANOES@CONNECT.AB.CA

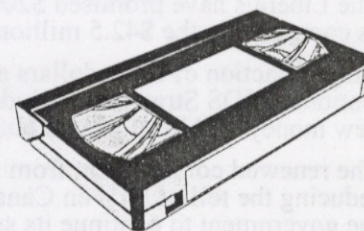
New Videos in the Resource Center

Taking Control - Documentary that look at the lives of five street youth and their participation in an AIDS outreach peer program in downtown Toronto.

The Colour of Immunity Toronto: Living with AIDS Project - This is a non-traditional educational video geared to Black youth to explore issues of AIDS awareness in the community as well as safer sex practices.

When Love is Gay - A documentary which explores relationship between men and explodes myths about gay love.

Out: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Youth - An intimate exploration of the struggles and victories of gay and lesbian youth in Canada.



VIP VIEWS

Instilling Hope: The patient-doctor interaction

Gina Wong-Wylie

While many physicians are efficient at treating health concerns and symptoms of patients, they can forget the importance of attending to the *person* involved.

A recent study conducted in collaboration with the University of Alberta and the Hope Foundation of Alberta captured the significance of the patient-doctor interaction to the experience of hope for persons living positive. The research demonstrated that physicians need to consider human well being as they treat the symptoms of patients. Results of the study have been presented at the XXVI International Congress of Psychology and published in the Journal of Qualitative Health Research.

The consequences of a negative patient-doctor interaction were vividly captured in this study. One participant poignantly relayed that an interaction with a physician greatly extended her depression following a diagnosis of HIV:

"How long the feelings of despair, hopelessness and I'M GOING TO DIE TOMORROW type of feelings lasted. They lasted a lot longer then they should have because I just didn't feel supported. I didn't feel in control. I felt like everyone else controlled what was happening to me and my body."

Eight living positive individuals shared twenty-two patient-doctor interactions that had positive and negative impact on their hope. In an examination of hopeless patient-doctor interactions, it was found that these interactions included doctors who treated living positive individuals as patients rather than full human beings. In addition, physicians within hopeless interactions were likely prescriptive, dismissing, and poorly informed on HIV/AIDS. Many of the individuals participating in this study discussed striking debilitating effects like suicidal thoughts and depression states that lasted much longer due to the hopelessness experienced following an interaction with a physician. An investigation of hopeful patient-doctor interactions demonstrated the essential qualities of doctors that facilitated positive and hopeful interactions. They involved doctors who were able to connect with the patient, who used descriptive, informative and empowering methods of relaying information, and who were fully attentive with each interaction.

This study, supported by Living Positive and the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, emphasized the significant impact that doctors have on the hope of persons living with HIV/AIDS. The research also underscored the necessary and specific components of patient-doctor interactions that enable persons with this illness to live with hope.

For further details or re-print requests, please contact:

Gina Wong-Wylie
Department of Human Ecology
University of Alberta
Assiniboia Hall, 3-67
T6G 2E1
PH: 492-5141

Dr. Ronna Jevne
Program Director
Hope Foundation of Alberta
PH: 492-1222

Liberals Commit to Continued AIDS Funding

We have learned that the Liberals are including a commitment to continued federal leadership in the fight against AIDS in their election platform. This is very good news for the communities across Canada who are dealing with this disease.

Local advocacy efforts were conducted as a part of a national effort. From all indications, these efforts were successful in keeping HIV/AIDS on the public agenda. Congratulations are in order to all who took part in these efforts.

The Liberals have promised \$200 million dollars over the next five years. This translates to \$40 million dollars per year as compared to the \$42.5 million under the existing strategy which runs out in March of 1998.

Only a fraction of these dollars are used to support community based agencies. Other initiatives which were covered by National AIDS Strategies include research, epidemiology, and national infrastructure support. It is not known how the new money will be allocated but it is hoped additional funds will be sent to community level programs.

The renewed commitment from the federal government is not a total surprise given the success of previous strategies in reducing the toll of HIV on Canadians. Beyond the success of these initiatives, there are other compelling reasons for the government to continue its support of AIDS programming.

HIV/AIDS affects people when they are in their prime working years; it is 100% preventable; is a relatively new disease; and much about it has yet to be discovered. Further, most breakthroughs in AIDS research apply to a wide range of health issues.

GMOC UPDATE

Just a quick note to let everyone know what is going on with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC). Our latest round of workshops was judged to be a huge success, according to all concerned, and we are looking forward to running another series in the early fall. Many thanks to the dedicated facilitators who ran these latest workshops: Fred Dicker, Garrett Epp, Brian Ferris, Brian Mader, and Jim Shermeta. GMOC will also be offering a new, ongoing workshop/support/discussion group every Sunday evening. This is a joint effort of GMOC and GLCCE and will be held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre - #103, 10612-124 Street. The group will run from 7 - 9 PM and the first session will be held on Sunday, June 15. For more information, or to register, call Kirk Starkie at 488-5742.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

GMOC is always interested in volunteers to help us out with our various activities. To find out how to become involved with GMOC, give Kirk a call at 488-5742, or feel free to attend one of our next meetings (scheduled for Tuesday, May 27 and Tuesday, June 17 - all meetings are held at the AIDS Network office at 7:00 PM). It's a great way to meet men!

"CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY AND PRIDE"

This is the theme for the **1997 PRIDE WEEK FESTIVAL**, and the Gay Men's Outreach Crew is proud to be involved in many of the events celebrating Edmonton's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community. Here is a list of events that have been scheduled so far:

Saturday, June 21

- dance for both genders at Bonnie Doon Community Hall. Co-sponsored by Womonspace and GLCCE.
- party to celebrate Spring Solstice at Boots and Saddle. Sponsored by Northern Chaps.

Sunday, June 22

- rally at "Gazebo Park" at 2:00 PM in Old Strathcona. Parade to follow. Picnic and fun and games afterwards sponsored by PFLAG.

Tuesday, June 24

- "After You Come Up For Air", a workshop for LesBiGay couples facilitated by Liz Massiah. It will be held at the Unitarian Church, 12530 - 110 Avenue from 7 - 9 PM.
- "Celebrating Safer Sex", a workshop for gay and bisexual men sponsored by GMOC. It will be held at the AIDS Network, #201, 11456 - Jasper Avenue from 7 - 10 PM. To register, phone Kirk at 488-5742.

Wednesday, June 25

- "Girl Me Safely", a workshop for lesbian and bisexual women. It will be held at the AIDS Network, #201, 11456 - Jasper Avenue from 7 - 10 PM. To register, call Kirk at 488-5742 (Don't worry, he will NOT be facilitating)
- GMOC Reunion, a party for anyone who has attended one of our workshops or volunteered for GMOC. Location TBA

Thursday, June 26

- show by the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose at Boots and Saddle, 10 PM. Featuring songs of freedom and protest from the '60s.
- Nu Queer Testings Images Festival at the Edmonton Art Gallery. Featuring "It's Elementary" and "Gay Spirit", two film documentaries.

Friday, June 27

- a selection of 9 gay themed films being shown at the Edmonton Art Gallery.
- Girl Me - Womyn only dance at Catalyst Theatre sponsored by Fennel Productions Ltd.

Saturday, June 28

- pot-luck picnic for gays, lesbians, and even straights, and their families at Hawrelak Park from 2 - 5 PM. Sponsored by the AIDS Network of Edmonton.
- concert by Edmonton Vocal Minority at Convocation Hall followed by the PRIDE AWARDS! If you know of someone from the gay community who deserves recognition, please feel free to nominate them. There are no official nomination forms to fill out; we just need a brief description of who you are nominating and why. You can send your nominations to Kirk Starkie at the AIDS Network or Fred Dicker at GLCCE.

I hope that all of the above information is accurate, but don't hold your breath. Watch for the **PRIDE FESTIVAL PASSPORT** which will be available at numerous outlets throughout the city in early June for more updated information.

AIDS WALK EDMONTON '97

AIDS Walk Edmonton... Coming Your Way!

Please make a difference...

- If you have a family member who is HIV positive...*
- If you have a friend who is HIV positive...*
- If you have someone in your life who has died of AIDS...*
- If you believe in the work of Edmonton's AIDS service organizations...*
- If you are a crusader in the fight against AIDS...*
- If you are afraid to get AIDS...*
- If you want to help in the fight against AIDS...*
- If you don't know how to fight AIDS...*
- If you care...*
- If you truly want to help someone who has AIDS...*

Please make a difference...

Walk and raise funds for the 1997 AIDS Walk Edmonton.

The 1997 AIDS Walk benefits the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society; Edmonton Persons Living With HIV Society; Living Positive; Interfaith Association On AIDS; and Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society.

AIDS Walk



Edmonton

1997

AIDS Walk Edmonton

Sunday, September 28

**Please be there
to make a difference.**